

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**PWC 4-2019
Tuesday, April 16, 2019
Council Chamber
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee: Bradley (Regional Chair), Chiocchio, Diodati, Edgar (Committee Vice-Chair), Fertich, Foster, Gale, Heit, Insinna, Nicholson, Rigby (Committee Chair), Sendzik, Steele, Ugolini, Witteveen

Absent/Regrets: Disero, Junkin, Zalepa

Other Councillors: Ip

Staff: D. Ane, Manager, Program Financial Support, D. Gibbs, Director, Legal & Court Services, J. Gilston, Legislative Coordinator, C. Habermehl, Acting Commissioner, Public Works, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Enterprise Resource Management Services, Dr. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, M. Janas, Associate Director, Water Operations Maintenance, M. Robinson, Director, GO Implementation Office, C. Ryall, Director, Transportation Services, S. Tait, Program Manager, Waste Management Services, F. Tassone, Associate Director, Transportation Engineering, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, A. Tyldesley, Associate Director, Waste Collection and Diversion

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Rigby called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Quality of Drinking Water

Committee Chair Rigby advised that the delegation on the Quality of Drinking Water had withdrawn their request to appear before Committee.

3.2 Reducing Litter and Waste in Our Communities: Discussion Paper

Jennifer Mazurek, Waste Management Program Manager, Public Works, provided information respecting Reducing Litter and Waste in Our Communities: Discussion Paper. Topics of the presentation included:

- A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan
- Prevent and Reduce Litter in Neighbourhoods and Parks
- Increase Opportunities for Ontarians to Reduce Waste
- Make Producers Responsible for their Waste
- Reduce Food and Organic Waste
- Reduce Plastic Waste Going into Landfills or Waterways
- Provide Clear Rules for Compostables
- Recover the Value of Resources
- Support Competitive and Sustainable End-Markets

A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

4. **DELEGATIONS**

4.1 PW 24-2019 Transportation Infrastructure Means Protection Update (Agenda Item 5.2)

Committee Chair Rigby advised the delegation request was received after the deadline and would need to be considered by the Committee.

Moved by Councillor Witteveen
Seconded by Councillor Ugolini

That Stephanie Farquharson and Wendi Duggan, Niagara United, **BE PERMITTED** to appear before the Public Works Committee as a delegate respecting PW 24-2019, Transportation Infrastructure Means Protection Update (Agenda Item 5.2).

Carried

4.1.1 Stephanie Farquharson and Wendi Duggan, Niagara United

Stephanie Farquharson and Wendi Duggan, Niagara United, appeared before Committee in support of the recommendations of Report PW 24-2019.

The delegation's speaking notes are attached to these minutes as PWC-C 13-2019.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 PW 18-2019

Winter Maintenance Extension

Moved by Councillor Diodati

Seconded by Councillor Steele

That Report PW 18-2019, dated April 16, 2019, respecting Winter Maintenance Extension, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the amending agreement option to extend the term of the Area Winter Maintenance Services Contract under 2008-RFP-40 for an additional one year term ending September 3, 2020, as outlined in Appendix 1 of Report PW 18-2019, **BE APPROVED**;
2. That an amending agreement with Steed and Evans Limited **BE PREPARED** by the Director of Legal and Court Services to exercise the one year option and extend the contract end date to September 3, 2020, following Council approval; and
3. That the Chief Administrative Officer **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute the amending agreement with Steed and Evans Limited.

The following friendly **amendment** was accepted by the Committee Chair, and the mover and seconder of the motion:

2. That an amending agreement with Steed and Evans Limited **BE PREPARED** by the Director of Legal and Court Services to exercise the **final** one year option and extend the contract end date to September 3, 2020, following Council approval

That Committee Chair called the vote on the motion as amended, as follows:

That Report PW 18-2019, dated April 16, 2019, respecting Winter Maintenance Extension, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the amending agreement option to extend the term of the Area Winter Maintenance Services Contract under 2008-RFP-40 for an additional one year term ending September 3, 2020, as outlined in Appendix 1 of Report PW 18-2019, **BE APPROVED**;

2. That an amending agreement with Steed and Evans Limited **BE PREPARED** by the Director of Legal and Court Services to exercise the final one year option and extend the contract end date to September 3, 2020, following Council approval; and
3. That the Chief Administrative Officer **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute the amending agreement with Steed and Evans Limited.

Carried

5.2 PW 24-2019

Transportation Infrastructure Means Protection Update

Moved by Councillor Sendzik
Seconded by Councillor Ugulini

That Report PW 24-2019, dated April 16, 2019, respecting Transportation Infrastructure Means Protection Update, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the recommendations contained in the Transportation Infrastructure Means Protection report, attached as Appendix 2 to Report PW 24-2019, **BE ENDORSED**;
2. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to proceed with the detailed design and tendering of the Transportation Infrastructure Means Protection project; and
3. That financing in the amount of \$4,000,000 gross and net **BE INITIATED** from the approved 2019 capital budget for the Transportation Infrastructure Means Protection project and that the project **BE FUNDED** as follows:
 - Reserves – Capital Levy - \$4,000,000

Recorded Vote:

Yes (10): Chiocchio, Diodati, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Nicholson, Sendzik, Steele, Ugulini, Witteveen.

No (4): Gale, Heit, Insinna, Rigby.

Carried

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

There were no consent items for information.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Emterra Environmental Update

Councillor Nicholson requested staff arrange to have Emterra Environmental attend a future Council meeting to provide an update respecting waste collection.

8. CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That this Committee **DO NOW MOVE** into Closed Session for the purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature respecting:

Confidential Verbal Update – A Matter of Litigation or Potential Litigation –
Emterra Contract

Carried

Committee resolved into closed session at 11:48 a.m.

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Committee reconvened in open session at 12:21 p.m. with the following individuals in attendance:

Committee:	Bradley (Regional Chair), Chiocchio, Diodati, Edgar (Committee Vice-Chair), Fertich, Foster, Gale, Insinna, Nicholson, Rigby (Committee Chair), Steele, Ugulini, Witteveen
Absent/Regrets:	Disero, Heit, Junkin, Sendzik, Zalepa
Staff:	D. Ane, Manager, Program Financial Support, D. Gibbs, Director, Legal & Court Services, J. Gilston, Legislative Coordinator, C. Habermehl, Acting Commissioner, Public Works, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Enterprise Resource Management Services, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk, S. Tait, Program Manager, Waste Management Services, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, A. Tyldesley, Associate Director, Waste Collection and Diversion

9.1 Confidential Verbal Update

Confidential Verbal Update – A Matter of Litigation or Potential Litigation -
Emterra Contract

Moved by Councillor Gale
Seconded by Councillor Nicholson

That the Confidential Verbal Update regarding a Matter of Litigation or
Potential Litigation – Emterra Contract, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

10. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. in the
Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Councillor Rigby
Committee Chair

Jonathan Gilston
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

Good morning and thank you for allowing me to be here with you all. My name is Wendi Duggan, this is Stephanie Farquharson and we are here representing Niagara United.

I'm sure at this point we can all agree that every time the Infrastructure and barriers are brought up it is countered with one of these three questions or comments...

1. The money would be better spent on mental health services than on barriers.
2. If you put up barriers, then "they" will just find somewhere else to go, what do we do, just put them on every [REDACTED]
3. All the talking about suicide is what's making people [REDACTED] there.

I know everyone here has most likely been on one side or the other where these three things have come up. So, let's talk about it, as talking about it is key.

Let's start with

1. The money would be better spent in mental health services than on barriers.

The truth is many individuals with mental illness are not affected by suicide and on the other side of it not all people who attempt or die by suicide have mental illness.

Niagara United fully agrees that better functioning services need to be available in Niagara, we are also very aware that services for Niagara adults hold a disturbing wait time when try to gain access to these services, which is another thing that we believe needs to be addressed sooner rather than later, but this is the wrong room for that discussion.

Niagara United will be advocating and pushing forward on ways to bridge gaps in these areas and continue to push for services needed or in need of extra help. But acknowledging these services are needed doesn't mean the need for barriers disappears, this isn't an either-or situation. Short-term and long-term solutions are necessary and required.

We also promised to come back with some numbers for you so let me break it down for you, I won't go through the whole thing again, but as it sits currently. If we take the mean total which again is the cost of death per suicide (direct cost + indirect cost per person) which we found out based on the 1996 New Brunswick Study was 849 thousand 877 dollars, add the current inflation of 48.83% which is set by the Bank of Canada bringing us to 1 million 264 thousand 873 dollars per suicide, now we take the cost per suicide and times it by the current suicides by [REDACTED] which is now 6, and that would give us a total of 7 million 589 thousand 238 dollars in 7 months. If we don't put barriers and if you allow this to continue at the same rate come October making it a full year, the total would be 13 million 10 thousand 112 dollars for the year.

Niagara United does understand that barriers and mental health services are not funded from the same place, since municipal government doesn't fund health care, but they do fund infrastructure. Meaning you can fund barriers, which the expert advised is needed and is the best solution for the infrastructure in question.

Number 2. If you put up barriers, then “they” will just find somewhere else to go, what do we do then, just put barriers up on every [REDACTED]

I would like to address the “they” people are referring to when saying this. Who are “they” you are speaking of? Those with suicidal thoughts? Or those who have mental health conditions? Because the facts on this state that people who suffer with suicidal thoughts do not necessarily have mental illness and those with mental illness do not always have suicide thoughts, on top of all of that people suffering from suicidal thoughts don’t want to die, they just want the unbearable pain to end.

I want to take a moment to read a letter sent to me yesterday about a “they”, a letter from a Dad & Mom named Jill and Tom about their “they” named Thomas James Ryan aka Jamie.

To: Wendi Duggan

In Regard To: [REDACTED] Suicide Prevention Barriers

We are writing this note to you; with the hope you can convey our views to Regional Councillors debating the value of suicide prevention [REDACTED] barriers at the [REDACTED]

We are Tom and Jill Ryan. On February 4th at 11:19 of this year our beautiful, beautiful son Jamie [REDACTED] to his death from the North West section of the [REDACTED]

We have read the article in the St. Catharines Standard regarding suicide prevention barriers.

We agree that the reasons NOT to put barriers up have validity.

However, despite this agreement, we feel very strongly that we as a community MUST install these barriers.

Our reasons are simple:

This [REDACTED] is very close to many, many of our community's most vulnerable people. Sadly, it has become the "face" of suicide in St. Catharines. It makes it too easy for suffering people to make a tragic impulse decision that can never be undone.

Our sons story illustrates this:

One of the symptoms of his disease was that he would often become overcome with a wave of depression and anxiety. He would go from functioning in a normal and often happy fashion, to overwhelming depression and anxiety. He would often say, "Dad, it's like a wave that comes over me and I just can't stop it".

On the day he died, he had a pretty normal day. In the evening he gamed online with old friends. We can confirm that at 10:00 p.m., less than 1 1/2 hour before his death, he had downloaded and installed a newly released video game.

Sometime after 10 pm, he experienced one of these waves of anxiety and depression.

Our son wanted so desperately to live but at this moment his pain became too much for him to bear.

At 10:20 pm he wrote a brief goodbye note.

The walk to the [REDACTED] is 25 minutes from where he lived.

At 11:19 pm, [REDACTED]. He was 27 years of age.

We know with virtual certainty that had there been suicide prevention barriers in place, he would not have [REDACTED] on that night. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

We know that had this option not existed, he would have lived one more night. He would have lived to see one more morning.

At that point, maybe the new medication would start to work. Maybe the depression would pass, as it always eventually did in the past. Maybe some way, somehow, he would find a way to get the upper hand over this horrible disease.

We are not at all sure that [REDACTED].

However, we do know that had there been [REDACTED] barriers in place, our son would have had a chance to fight one more day. Another day that could have made a difference.

He deserved that chance.

Thank You,

Tom and Jill Ryan

His parents included an entry from Jamie's "Gratefulness List", written on Oct 15th, 2018:

"I'm grateful for walking, and for the messages on the [REDACTED]"

Bottom line....Barriers save lives, that is a proven statistic, they give people a chance to live, both above and below, and that's what prevention is.

I know to many it may sound ridiculous but our answer to what about barriers on other

[REDACTED] I can say with as much certainty as previous stated in council, if 6 people [REDACTED] from another infrastructure within 6 months in our region, Niagara United will be back, and we will be here fighting for barriers as a suicide prevention method just like we have for months now.

Comment response 3 - All the talking about suicide is what's making people ■■■ there!

This statement carries with it so much stigma that it needs to be addressed. Talking about suicide doesn't make people get up and die by suicide. Talking about suicide, making it part of conversations, allowing for it to be a topic in a room without it bringing about shame, or embarrassment but rather bring connection, and effective communication about a topic that needs to be heard and spoke about so those who suffer do not have to suffer with those feelings alone or in silence.

Talking about it in media relations is a whole different story. Scientific evidence has shown that media coverage of suicide can sometimes result in contagion in some vulnerable people leading to increased suicide rates. For this reason, there are guidelines set up, things like the use of appropriate language, that efforts be made to reduce stigma around mental disorders, and to provide information about alternatives to suicide.

Understanding the difference in talking about suicide is important. Dr Sinyor lead author of the guidelines and psychiatrist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto says "This is an extremely important issue. Some reports can be harmful, but we also know that sending appropriate, contextualized messages about suicide and mental health in general can save lives".

Now I've talked about all the questions and comments most frequently said, except for this last one that started to be more of a reason since our last visit here this past January. The concern for driving under said Infrastructure has become a grave concern for many, many people in our region. Many are scared to drive over in fear of witnessing a suicide, as some have had just that happen, and others are taking alternate routes to avoid going under the infrastructure all together. This fear is not okay.

Dan and Nicole whom are here today are parents of Amelia. Amelia died by suicide at this Infrastructure on February 18th 2019. Her parents are not sure the barriers would have stopped their daughter, as she is remembered as a determined and motivated young lady, but Dan has said that he is thankful that her ■■■ did not cause any havoc below, for that he is thankful. He says that he would hate to think of what could have happened. And for that reason alone, thinks the barriers should be installed.

Alexus Howard was a witness to the ■■■ on the 4th of February. Alexis said in a note written for today that the traumatizing effect this has had on her has greatly impacted her life as well as the other individuals as well. Being witness to such an event has left her with feelings of helpless and an alone feeling. Her heart was and is broken at the thought that Jill and Tom's son Jamie won't be going home.

The real issue here is that people in general and some elected officials in particular are disregarding reliable evidence and expertise about suicide prevention in favor of hunches and uninformed reasoning.

It's also kind of scary to think a reason for not implementing a best practice solution is because we might then be asked to do it again.